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Title:

Speech at the Opening of the Berri War Memorial Community Centre, Riverside Caravan
Park

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE BERRI
WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER, RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK.

YOUR WORSHIP, MR. BOTTING, MR. CURREN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY.

I AM ALWAYS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO COME TO THE RIVERLANDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND ESPECIALLY ON OCCASIONS SUCH AS THIS WHEN WE MARK THE OPENING OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.

THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RIVERLANDS IS, I BELIEVE, IMMENSELY PROMISING BOTH AS A DEVELOPING FRUIT AND WINE PRODUCTION AREA AND AS A TOURIST AREA. IN THE FORMER CASE, WE ARE CONSTANTLY HAVING THIS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY REG CURREN. REG'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GROWERS - AND HIS ABIDING INTEREST IN WORKING OUT A SCHEME OF ORDERLY MARKETING FOR CITRUS, HAS MEANT THAT THE INTERESTS OF YOUR REGION ARE VERY EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTED BOTH TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO PARLIAMENT. IN FACT ONE OF MY STAFF REMARKED

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THE OTHER DAY THAT HE WONDERED IF REG WAS REPRESENTING CARPET MANUFACTURERS AS WELL AS THE RIVERLANDS, SINCE HE SEEMED TO BE SO INTENT ON WEARING OUT THE CARPET IN MY OFFICE.

AND IT IS, OF COURSE, AS A RESULT OF SUCH PEOPLE WITH KEEN REGIONAL INTEREST AND COMMITMENT THAT TOWNS LIKE BERRI ARE WIDELY REGARDED AS "GO AHEAD" PLACES.

I THINK YOUR WHOLE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT SHOWS THIS. TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, THE DEVELOPMENT THAT BRINGS US HERE TOGETHER TODAY. THE NEW CARAVAN PARK AND ITS ADJACENT RECREATION AND SPORTING FACILITIES ARE AN INDICATION OF THE SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT THE PEOPLE OF BERRI HAVE IN PLANNING FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE FUTURE. THIS CAN BE FURTHER BORNE OUT IN THE PLANNED RIVER FRONTAGE AND BOAT HAVEN PROJECT WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING WORKED UPON. AND I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT IN ALL THESE

DEVELOPMENTS THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY, IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY, JOINTLY WITH YOUR LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, YOUR DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE BERRI WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER. IN FACT, TWO DEPARTMENTS OF MY GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN FINANCIALLY INVOLVED IN THIS DEVELOPMENT: THE PUBLIC PARKS FUND ON THE ONE HAND WAS USED, AND THE TOURIST SUBSIDIES GIVEN OUT BY MY DEPARTMENT ARE FINANCING PART OF THE RIVER FRONT WORKS.

AND THERE ARE, IN FACT, TWO REASONS WHY STATE GOVERNMENT MONIES HAVE BEEN USED IN THIS AREA. ON THE ONE HAND, AS I HAVE SAID, THERE HAS BEEN REG'S VERY CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS IN BRINGING THE RIVERLANDS TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT, AND ON THE OTHER BECAUSE WE SEE THE RIVERLANDS AS A CENTRAL PART OF OUR STATE-WIDE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING.

IT IS TRUE THAT, AT THE MOMENT, BY FAR THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF OUR TOURISTS COME TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA BY CAR. AND IN RELATION TO CAR TOURISTS FROM QUEENSLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES AND NORTHERN VICTORIA, BERRI IS STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO TAKE A MAXIMUM ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION. THIS MEANS, IN EFFECT, THAT ALL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR REGION THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS TOURIST TRAFFIC CAN ONLY HELP TO ADVANCE NOT ONLY ITS PROSPERITY BUT ALSO THE PROSPERITY OF THIS STATE. AND SINCE TOURISM HAS ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR GROWTH RATES OF ANY INDUSTRY IN THE WORLD, YOU WILL, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, DISCOVER THAT WHAT YOU ARE ACHIEVING NOW IS IN FACT ONLY THE START OF A LONG PROCESS THAT WILL MAKE BERRI A KEY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AREA IN THE MURRAY VALLEY. YOU WILL HAVE ALL READ THE EXCELLENT ANTA TRAVEL INDUSTRY APPRAISAL AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO BERRI. YOU ARE, IN FACT, BEGINNING TO IMPLEMENT NOW, AND HERE,

PROJECTS THAT ARE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

AND I THINK IT IS FITTING THAT, IN ADDITION TO BEING A TOURIST ASSET AND A FACILITY THAT THE TOWN AND REGION GENERALLY CAN ENJOY IN ITS OWN RIGHT, THIS DEVELOPMENT, AS A BERRI WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT, IS A PROJECT THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH BERRI IN A MEANINGFUL AND IMPORTANT WAY.

I THEREFORE HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING THE RIVERSIDE CARAVAN PARK OPEN.

THANK YOU.